

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, January 8, 1877, with transcript

Jan. 8, 1877 winter 1877 Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. My darling Alec:

Your delayed letter of Thursday came this morning and a little later, that of yesterday. I am so glad things look brighter to you now than they did. Perhaps though by this time you have undergone one of your sudden changes which so startle me and you are now under the weather. Poor Alec, it is very trying to have so many duties pulling different ways, to try to serve two masters. I have been thinking over it and see more and more how hard it is. But surely the end is very near now. Have patience a little while longer and then you will be able to go back to your Boston duty and be at peace. If Mr. Pollok thinks you ought to go to Chicago or anywhere else it seems to me it is most to your own interest to do so. If possible you ought to give up your profession for a while as by giving Mr. Pollok your undivided attention now you will be through with him the sooner. Trying to do both will only prolong the time of your "bondage". I know how easy it is to talk and how hard to do it and the question of money certainly is much in the way and as I know nothing about it I cannot help you. Trust to Papa to help you, he is just as much interested in your success as you are and what I privately think far more efficacious. Mamma is there to help you both. How I wish I could be with you all. Thank you ever so much for having a proof struck off for me. Of course it is not to be expected, Mr. Pollok should remember about it, but it is just like you to think what pleasure it would give me to see what you have been doing. What does Papa say to your new instruments? It is perfectly delightful Mr. Watson has succeeded so well with them. Take courage, the end is very near now. What a shame you and Mr. Watson missed your war dance. Do you know I have heard you speak of indulging in that very undignified pastime, but never seen you do so and I feel I shall not quite know you

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until I have seen you performing. When do you expect to come back? Please tell me as soon as you know that I may be prepared.

Grandpa congratulated me, shook hands and finally kissed me when he had read your second letter. I am so very glad things look brighter to you, you are having such a hard time. But don't forget everything comes out right at last. Goodbye.

I have nothing to tell you of ourselves, things are just about as usual. Auntie is dusting her books. Sister on the sofa has been watching her and I have been darning a tear in my dress. Of all patience-trying things, darning is the worst. Tell Mamma Martha appeared this morning.

With much love to your Mamma and Papa. Ever lovingly, Mabel.